

STATSMINISTER ODVAR NORDLIS TALE VED APNINGEN AV UTSTILLINGEN  
AV EDVARD MUNCH-GRAFIKK I BANK OF JAMAICA, KINGSTON,  
26. MAI 1978

I take pleasure in opening this exhibition of lithographic prints by Edvard Munch.

The reception given me in your country has been very heartwarming and I am indeed happy to have this opportunity of presenting some of the dearest possessions of my own country to Jamaicans.

Edvard Munch was a very productive painter and lithographic artist. Even if he achieved fame outside Norway at an early stage, he kept most of his art to himself. Following his death in 1944, it was revealed that he had

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left his large collection of 18000 prints, 1200 paintings and more than 4000 drawings to the City of Oslo. Today, this collection is housed in the Munch Museum of Oslo, which is one of the main cultural attractions of the capital of Norway.

Among the many visitors to Oslo who have studied the beauty and the drama of Edvard Munch's art is Jamaica's own Prime Minister. A tour of the Munch Museum was included in the program of Mr. Manley's visit to Norway last year. Our distinguished guest immediately told us that he would appreciate it if some of Edvard Munch's works could be exhibited in Jamaica.

On our side we are proud to show this art to our overseas friends. As a consequence - here is the exhibition!

I would like to pay a tribute to the Foreign Ministry

of Jamaica and the National Gallery of Jamaica for assisting us in bringing the art of Edvard Munch to Kingston at the time of my visit.

As closer cooperation is being developed between our two countries in the political and the economic fields I think it is of importance that we also seek to establish relations of cultural exchange. By so doing we will deepen the cooperation between the countries and give the peoples of our two nations an opportunity to learn more about each other's history and life.

With these words I have the honour to open the Exhibition of Graphic Works by Edvard Munch in Kingston, Jamaica.